

14. Recreation

Plan District Meeting on Recreation

Vigo Board of County Commissioners President Harry P. Brentlinger plans to attend an area meeting for recreation and conservation officials as well as county commissioners in a 12-county area to be held Aug. 18 at the Crawfordsville Country Club.

The meeting, which will begin at 10 a.m. at the club, located four miles west of Crawfordsville on SR 32, is one of a series currently scheduled throughout the state under the auspices of the Indiana Department of Natural Resources.

In connection with an announcement concerning the meetings, John E. Mitchell, director of the state natural resources department, reported that Indiana has submitted its application to the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation for \$1,710,123 as its first-year funds under the Land and Water Conservation Funds Act. The report stated further that local (county and sub-county) recreation developers will receive approximately \$425,000 this first year.

Plan Matching Funds

Noted also was the expectation that out of a total of \$58 million, local communities will receive one-half of this amount as matching funds for local recreation development over a five-year period.

The Crawfordsville meetings, and others at various points in the state, will see the release of Supplements No. 1 to the State Master Plan, or Acquisition and Development, entitled, "Local Needs and Responsibilities," a publication designed to provide local area information to the federal outdoor recreation bureau.

Counties included in the West Central Planning Area covered by the Crawfordsville meeting are Vigo, Vermillion, Sullivan, Parke, Greene, Clay, Fountain, Montgomery, Owen, Putnam, Tipton and Warren.

T.H. Recreation
Seminar Airs
T.H. Trib. 10/1/65
Program for
Better Parks

By PEGGIE ELGIN

Terre Haute's main interest in park development lies in the developing of neighborhood parks, Donald High, Terre Haute superintendent of parks, said Thursday.

High attended a meeting at the Cotillion Room in Hulman Center to listen to state representatives explain what aid was available to communities that want to develop their park and recreation systems.

Terre Haute was host at the regional conference for central western Indiana. City and county officials as well as park professionals from many surrounding communities attended the meeting.

"We are primarily interested in how we can develop neighborhood parks and in what we can do with the river banks," High said.

The Youth Opportunity Act which would provide 50-50 matching funds from federal and state governments would be of the most value to Terre Haute, of all the federal programs outlined at the meeting, High explained.

Park Program Needed
High said the main problem blocking Terre Haute from taking advantage of the available funds in this program is that Terre Haute does not have a comprehensive park plan program, High said.

This is one of the requirements for the federal program. "This park board is trying awfully hard to get a plan to cover all phases of recreation," High said. But so far Terre Haute has not come up with such a plan.

High pointed out that the development of such watersheds as Otter Creek, Lost Creek and Honey Creek would be very beneficial to the city.

These three are due to come before the state board of water and land conservation, according to Harry Moore, assistant

state conservationist.

He told the officials at the meeting how they could procure park money under the small watershed conservation fund act.

Require Flood Control

The first purpose of the watershed is to provide flood control and this purpose must be met in the plans before any funds are allocated for recreational purposes, he said.

"It must be a multi-purpose deal," he said. "We think of such a recreational area as centered around a man-made reservoir," Moore said.

Moore said not only was this a logical move for flood prevention, but it would also be cheaper than if the community tried to develop flood control and recreation in two different projects.

The recreational areas adjacent to the reservoir must be water oriented, he said. "This would allow for such things as camping and picnic grounds," he explained.

The amount of land the government will help a community or county buy cannot exceed the total acreage of the reservoir, Moore said.

Other speakers at the three-hour meeting included: Ray Benson, a recreational consultant for the Indiana Board of Health; John Borah, director of planning for the State Department of Commerce; Mrs. Frieda Noble, associate director of the state tourist division of the Department of Commerce; and Richard Molby, representing the State Department of Natural Resources.

Approximately 45 persons attended the meeting.

County-Wide Vigo Park Plan

T.H. Star 11/6/65

Voted by County Councilmen

By RON HARDMAN

The Vigo County Council gave its approval Friday to county-wide park and recreation department, the first step in qualifying for federal funds to develop park and recreation sites throughout the county.

Proponents of the plan hailed the council's action as "an historic event which will benefit the present generation and generations to come."

The Vigo County Department of Parks and Recreation will operate separately from the Terre Haute Park Department, although hope was expressed that sometime in the future the two departments might merge into a truly county-wide organization.

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The council was not unanimous in the vote which ended several months of controversy that threatened to end in a stalemate as the area planning proposal did some years ago.

Council President Everett Branam finally called for a show of hands on the issue Friday morning as the council wound up business at the conclusion of its ninth special session of the year.

Branam had commented he would postpone a showdown if he felt he did not have the needed majority to approve the proposal. Voting with Branam in favor of the plan were Arthur

Mann, Stanley Cooper and John Brentlinger.

Opposing the park board proposal were Howard Leach and the lone Republican on the council, David T. Reed of Prairie Creek Township.

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Councilman Pierce Turner is hospitalized at St. Anthony Hospital and was not able to attend the three-day special session and therefore did not vote on the park department issue. Turner is reported in good condition.

The only comment from Leach was "this park board business is a lot of foolishness."

Reed, however, went into some detail explaining why he had decided to vote against the enabling ordinance required by the Indiana Legislature.

Reed said he was not against parks and recreation but he objected to the power of the park

See COUNTY PARKS
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appearance before the council Thursday of Dr. Noble Sevier and Pete McCreary, president and ex-officio members of the Sullivan County Park Board which has been in operation since July of 1964.

"This is a fine step for the community and for generations to come. In the years to come we can look back and point to the County Council of 1965 as those men responsible for approving this important step," the HELP president said.

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Mrs. Beecher said HELP has long been interested in the area of parks and recreation and the organization will watch with interest the appointments to the park board.

Circuit Court Judge H. Ralph Johnson will appoint the four members, two Republicans and two Democrats. He has promised to consult with the council before naming the members.

Branam said the council will probably decide on the nominations between now and the next special session of the council, which is expected to be in December. He said they would submit the names to the judge at that time.

Branam invited suggestions and nominations from the various county civic groups and organizations, which he said would be considered by the council.

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The resolution approving the park department also stipulated that the member of Vigo County agricultural agent's office be designated as ex-officio member of the park board.

The motion to establish the countywide system was made by councilman Mann and seconded by Councilman Brentlinger.

Harry Brentlinger Jr., president of the Vigo County Board of Commissioners, said the operation of the new Department of Parks and Recreation would be financed from special appropriations approved by the county council next year. No provisions were made for the new department in the budget drawn up for 1966.

Matching federal funds equal to the assessed valuation of the 160-acre site given to the county by the Peabody Coal Company some years ago will be available for development of the area as the first recreation program in the county. Brentlinger said the 25-acre lake is valued at roughly \$25,000 and the other 135 acres at

federal grant of \$38,500 for development of the site.

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Brentlinger has spearheaded the drive for some kind of orderly park and recreation program for the county and was obviously quite pleased with the action taken by the County Council Friday.

In other action pending before the council Friday, members approved additional appropriations totaling \$49,036.75 from the general fund. They cut some \$3,500 from the amounts requested by several county departments.

Another \$2,500 was approved for the Highway Department, \$4,700 for the Welfare Department and \$1,525 for Glenn Home.

County Parks

Continued From Page 1

board to approve bonded indebtedness up to two per cent of the assessed valuation of the county or \$3,800,000. He said the council would have no control over the board in this respect and he felt the council should not give such power to an appointive board.

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Secondly, Reed said the people of his area are opposed to the eminent domain provisions of the park board legislation. He said he did not object to condemning private property for public use when the land would go for some necessity such as roads but he does not consider the need for recreation facilities is so urgent.

Reed explained he was also hopeful that the council could have delayed any action until it was determined what the several watershed projects already under way in the county might offer to the public.

Reed was not alone in his doubts about the bonding power of the park board and the effect such indebtedness might have on the tax levy in succeeding years. Several other members apparently cleared up most of their questions Thursday afternoon at a two-hour public hearing.

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The council's decision to conduct that hearing brought praise from Mrs. Margaret Beecher, president of HELP (Housewives Effort for Local Progress).

"HELP wishes to commend the County Council for its willingness to ask for information from those persons who have knowledge of how the plan operates," Mrs. Beecher said. "This truly is an historic event in our county."

Mrs. Beecher referred to the \$13,500, making a possible total

Vigo Co. Recreation
T.H. 11/17/65
**Choices for
County Park
Board Studied**

The Vigo County Council has been called for a special session to consider emergency appropriations Dec. 1 and may announce the names of prospective Vigo Park and Recreation Board members recommended at that time.

The new board was the subject of action approved by a four to two council vote at its last special session. Provided for in recent Indiana legislation, the board is to be filled by appointments to be made by Circuit Judge H. Ralph Johnston who is reported to have told the seven-member council that he will appoint only persons satisfactory to it. The board is to include four members and one ex-officio member.

The new special session was called for the consideration of approximately \$21,000 in emergency appropriations requested by several county offices and agencies. General fund requests total \$17,856 while the Welfare Department asks \$2,625, mostly in the form of budgetary transfers, and the County Highway Department seeks \$1,000.

Ask Glenn Home Repairs

In the general fund requests, the commissioners ask for \$2,500 each for repairs to the Glenn Home and for soldier burials; the auditor seeks \$2,000 for extra help and the sheriff requests an additional \$1,500 for food for prisoners.

The long-discussed county park system won Council approval Nov. 5 after members were assured of some voice in the selection of the board and would retain at least a measure of control over the board budget. Major objections to the park board proposal centered over eminent domain provisions in the state statute and board power to make public indebtedness by issuing bonds totaling two per cent of the assessed valuation of county property.

County Council President Everett Branam indicated at the time the plan was approved councilmen would submit their choices for the board at the next meeting.

Bipartisan Board

The Indiana Park and Recreation Law of 1965 provides that the board be bipartisan in make-up, that is two Republicans and two Democrats.

Judge Johnston says he plans to consult neither party, however in deciding on his appointments to the board. He said he is looking for the best persons for the job and he will have the final say on the appointments.

The pay is not large. Members of the board may receive a salary not to exceed \$300 a year. Sullivan County park board members, for example, have served without pay during the last 18 months.

The law also provides when the board determines it is desirable for members or employees to attend a state, regional or national conference dealing with park and recreation problems, it may authorize the payment of the actual expenses.

Board members also may be paid a per diem allowance of not more than \$5 for attendance at a meeting of the board. This allowance will not exceed \$10 in any one month.

The statutes also provide the park board will make an annual report to the Board of County Commissioners and the County Council concerning the operation of the board and the status of recreation programs in the county.

City Parks in Red

T. H. Trib. 10/5/65.

Due to Weather

By PEGGIE ELGIN

The Board of Park Commissioners learned that the city parks lost money this year due to bad weather this summer, at their meeting Monday morning.

The preliminary estimate puts the loss at \$3,500. Donald C. High, superintendent of city parks said the exact figure won't be known until the September receipts and attendance records are in as well as the bills for winterizing the pools.

The swimming pool loss further clouds the financial picture for city parks this year, according to High.

High reports that the city water bill for the parks will be nearly double last year's water bill.

"This is due to the increase in rates and the new method of billing.

"Instead of putting the water bill for all the parks in a master bill as the water company used to do," High said, "we now get a bill for each park."

Bill Almost Double

Last year's park water bill totaled \$2,108, High said. This year the bill is \$3,492.49 right now. By the end of the year the bill will be \$4,000, High estimated.

"We're running in the red right now," High said. High said that the parks only asked for and received \$2,700 from the city for the 1965 water bills. High said the situation would be repeated next year unless a solution can be found. He said that the 1966 budget only calls for \$3,000 for the park water bill.

High said that the park administration is doing its best to curtail the water bill. He said that they are taking the water meter out of Deming Park this month, earlier than they ever have before.

In other park board business, the commissioners expressed enthusiasm and interest in the federal aid available to parks through the Economic Opportunity Act.

They instructed High to obtain all the necessary information for procuring 100 to 150 young workers to be paid at federal government expense.

President of the Commissioners appointed Theodore K. Moore and Sidney Levin, commissioners, to work with High in arranging for local participation in the federal program.

The program would employ local unemployed youngsters at \$1.25 an hour—all to be paid for by the federal government. High noted that all the local system would have to pay 10 cents on the dollar.

"We would have to furnish supervision," High said.

"We could take about 100

boys from the program and repair the road in Deming Park," White said. He added that "maybe we could use 150 from the project."

Words of Caution

High cautioned the board, "When you get too many you have a sort of WPA project." He said that it might be hard to keep 100 of them working all the time. "There will be horseplay," he said.

Levin noted that the project would not only be helping the park board do work that badly needs doing but would also help many young unemployed youngsters such as the dropouts.

High reminded the board of another rule in the federal program. "For every drop out used, "We've got to use another one in school," he said.

High and the two commissioners were instructed by a board vote to investigate the possibilities of the program for the Terre Haute park system.

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Vigo Co. Park Board
T.H. Trib. 10/19/65
Park Proposal
On Agenda of
T.H. Parks
County Council

Emergency appropriations totaling \$61,000 and a Vigo County Park Board will be among proposals to be considered at a special meeting of the County Council called for Nov. 3.

The Council discussed the proposed county recreation and park department at a meeting a few weeks ago. Harry P. Brentlinger, president of the County Commissioners, told them that the establishment of the department would qualify Vigo County for federal aid in the development of recreation sites.

County President Everett S. Branam expressed favor for the proposed county park board, but reflected Council concern over the control of financial matters which, it is said, would transfer to the proposed board from the Council. He said that it might be possible to clarify the issues before the next Council meeting.

Additional appropriation requests to be considered by the council include County Clerk, \$2,057.50; Auditor, \$150; Treasurer, \$846.59; Sheriff, \$1,203.87; Surveyor, \$285; Prosecuting Attorney, \$500; Board of Health, \$35; Junior Detention Center, \$300; Superior Court No. 2, \$1,100; Court House, \$1,600; Jail, \$500; County Home, \$22,625; County Commissioners, \$20,176; Veteran's Assistance Center, \$303; Civil Defense, \$645, and Coroner, \$94.80.

The County Highway Department is asking for \$2,500 and the Welfare Department is seeking \$4,700 for the Public Employees Retirement Fund and Social Security and \$1,550 for Home.

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T.H. Parks
T.H. STAK 12/1/65

Park Board Will Ask Federal Aid For Youth Jobs

At a special meeting of the Terre Haute Park Board Tuesday it was decided to move forward and take all necessary steps to obtain federal aid under the Neighborhood Youth Corps program. The meeting was called by Mayor Ralph Tucker.

Along with board members attending the meeting, were Park Superintendent Donald C. High, Jerry Hile, director of the community action program, and Judge Harold Bitzegao, chairman of the local advisory committee for the Neighborhood Youth Corps program.

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It was explained at the meeting the program provides federal funds to hire youths from 16 to 21 years of age who cannot find work. They would be employed to do various jobs in the city for a 26-week period. It was pointed out the hiring of approximately 100 youths would not affect the status of any of the regular city employees.

Judge Bitzegao said, "It should be a constructive park program, not just busy work."

The park department must determine the number of youths who will be needed and what type of jobs they will be needed for before application may be made for the federal program.

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High was instructed to meet

with Hile and map out various programs as needed and to determine the exact number of youths that will be required.

The program is designed for youths who are not in school—those who have been graduated from high school and are unable to find jobs, and those who have dropped out of school and cannot find work.

Hile said he hopes to present the application for the federal aid by mid-December in order the program can be initiated by February.

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T.H. PARKS
T.H. Trib 12/1/65.

Park Board Subscribes To Youth Program

The Park Commissioners heard Park Superintendent Donald C. High report on the status of the Youth Opportunity Program at their regular meeting Tuesday.

High told the board that the park system would make application to the federal government for a program consisting of 52 boys and one girl worker. The boys would work in the park under various supervision and the girl would be secretarial work in the office, he said.

He told the board that for every six workers in the program there must be one supervisor. It was this feature of the program that had most to do with the number the park system could use, he explained.

Of the 52 boys, High said that 18 would be laborers and the others would be divided into smaller groups to work as painters, mechanics, electrical workers, carpenters and greens keepers—all with appropriate trainers and supervisors.

He said that the youngsters would be allowed to work 32 hours a week if they are not in school or 16 hours per week if they are in school. The program's duration is 26 weeks.

No Replacements

High said that most of the park employees will be instructors in the program, teaching the young people skills and responsibility. He added that no present park employees would be replaced by any youth.

In other park board discussion, the board voted to renew

the contract of Bernard Hayworth for musical concerts during the summer in the city parks.

The board stipulated that it would be up to the park board to choose the parks in which the concerts will be given throughout the summer. This is necessary park commissioner Sidney Levin said because of the sesquicentennial celebration next year.

He said the board should be able to place the concerts where they will be most significant throughout the summer. Most concerts had been given in Deming Park to date.

The concerts are paid for out of the Simon Levi Music Fund.

The board also discussed future plans for Fairbanks and Booker T. Washington Parks in which old swimming pools will soon be removed.

The bids for swimming pool demolition will be opened on Monday and the contracts may be awarded at that time, according to High.

Commissioner Levin expressed some concern over what would be placed in the area which the pools now occupy.

He suggested that High get together with the city planner and draw up some definite plans. He said that one park is situated close to the public housing development that the side of the park closest to the development be developed with the elderly citizens in mind rather than in playground equipment.

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J.H. Parks
T.H. Tr. b. 12/8/65.

Conservation Funds Listed For Counties

Federal Land and Water Conservation Funds total \$483,220 have become available to Indiana's official county park and recreation authorities for the development of local outdoor recreation facilities. Under the plan Vigo County's new park program is eligible to receive \$10,330.

John Mitchell, Director of the Department of Natural Resources, made the announcement of this initial fund allocation on the eve of the First Governor's Conference on Natural Resources and Natural Beauty scheduled for the Dec. 9 and 10 in Indianapolis.

Mitchell stated that this first allocation of monies is designed for use by official county authorities to prepare long range park and recreation plans including the provision for the needs of municipalities located within the counties.

Funds for Development

Counties having completed their comprehensive development plans supplemental to the State's Master Plan — may use the funds for acquisition and development purposes. Allocated funds not utilized within one year of allocation will be redistributed to those counties with active programs.

Hereafter, Land and Water Conservation Funds will be available on an annual matching fund basis as individual project proposals are approved by the Department of Natural Resources and the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. Administered by the bureau, the fund derives its monies from the sale of surplus lands, federal tax on the motorboat fuels and user fees from National Parks and recreation areas.

Other county allocations include: Greene, \$2,570; Clay, \$2,400; Sullivan, \$2,110; Owen, \$1,160; Parke, \$1,490, and Vermillion, \$1,610.

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DEEP WELLS AT CITY PARKS NEAR COMPLETION

The Terre Haute Park Department's five deep water wells, which have been under construction for the past several months, are expected to be completed early next week, according to Jack Watson, park superintendent.

Watson says cost of the five wells will exceed \$20,000. Bids were awarded last March.

Once in operation, the wells are expected to alleviate tremendous water bills which have plagued the park department for the past several years. In 1966 alone, the water bill for the Terre Haute Park Department was nearly \$7,000, of which 80 per cent was paid for sewage disposal.

The wells have been constructed at Collett, Rea, Deming, Sheridan and Voorhees Parks. The later three parks are equipped with swimming pools.

Vigo Co. Recreation

County Tourism-Recreation Group Prepares for Action

T.H. Tribune Hist. 1966

One of the four units of the newly established Vigo County Tourism - Recreation Commission was formed Monday noon after a meeting with commission chairman, Dr. Lonzo Jones.

Rus Arnold of WTHI-TV accepted the chairmanship of Unit IV (publicity) after Dr. Jones outlined the goals and progress of the commission and asked those present to serve on an executive committee for publicity.

Other members are Gary Minich, Tribune, secretary; Omer (Salty) Seaman, Joseph Kish, director of information, ISU; Ed Whalen, Moore Langen, and Bill Dooner, Cardinal Outdoor Advertising.

General Committee

The first act of the executive committee was to invite a representative of each news medium in the city to serve on a larger general committee. It also discussed ways of getting information to the tourist pointing out Terre Haute's historical, recreational and cultural points.

The commission, now being formed to go into high gear with

the sesquicentennial year, was established in November. Its function, generally, is to act as a semi-official agency for co-ordinating all recreational and tourist work being done in the area.

It has the self-assigned task of identifying, classifying, promoting, developing and publicizing recreational facilities of the county for both local and tourist users; of identifying features of the county which may be developed further, and of co-operating with agencies attempting to attract tourists to the general area.

Commission members include Dr. Jones, chairman; Ronald Bland, Donas Dischinger, Mary Alice Cannon, Jim Conover, Guy T. Harris and Harry Brentlinger Jr.

The tasks are divided among four units. Besides publicity, they are Unit I, representatives of agencies sponsoring recreational programs; Unit II, representatives of agencies interested in planning and developing tourist and recreational facilities, and Unit III, consultants and advisors.

Unit I, headed by Dischinger, will include representatives of schools, churches, women's clubs, farms, the aged, boys' groups, girls' groups and minority groups, as well as service and fraternal organizations, industry, etc.

Unit II includes representatives of the Wabash Valley Association, county and city park boards, watershed program, historical groups, racing and the schools.

Consultants listed by Jones include Mrs. Alpha Poulos, ISU; Mayor Ralph Tucker; Henry Throneburg, labor; Ernie Davis, industry; Robert Mann, city planner; Emanuel Gorland, redevelopment and urban renewal; Ronald Bland, Chamber of Commerce; Mrs. Margaret Wright, co-ordinating council; Marsee Cox and Ben Falber, news media; a member of the county council and Jim Conover.